

DAILY RECORD-UNION

MONDAY APRIL 23, 1887

CITY OFFICIAL PAPER.

The RECORD-UNION is the only paper on the coast, outside of San Francisco, that receives the full Associated Press dispatches from all parts of the world. Outside of San Francisco it has no competitor, in point of news, in its home and general circulation throughout the coast.

SAN FRANCISCO AGENCIES.

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TO-DAY'S LEADING NEWS TOPICS.

The RECORD-UNION this morning editorially treats of the free trade Democracy as far as it is concerned, division, protective policy upon the country.

The long and short-haul clause of the Interstate Commerce Act has been temporarily suspended in the cases of the overland railroads.

Cleveland's second term candidacy is both affirmed and denied.

The French claim that the Schneebelis was arrested on French soil, and the Germans deny it. Execution of the traitor is abating.

A dispatch from Nogales declares that cholera has appeared in Guaymas.

COMMERCIAL DISMEMBERMENT.

The result of the interstate commerce law strikes at the fundamental principles of a republican form of government. It threatens by commercial assault possible dismemberment of the Union, in that it erects at every State line a barrier against the free and uninterrupted communication and interchange between the citizens of the States, that is essential to the knitting together of interests which makes us one people. And for this condition of things, the Democratic party, a Democratic Congress, and a Democratic President are responsible.

They have imported into our internal economy a distorted form of protection, that practically puts a custom-house at every crossing of a railroad from one State into another. The protective policy has heretofore related solely and only to commerce between foreign peoples and our own. Against this the Democratic party has always pleaded, and often attempted to legislate. There is in the articles of its faith not one to which it is more devotedly attached than the doctrine of free trade.

In the teeth of the bitterest opposition of the Democrats, the Whigs in 1842 imposed a protective tariff, and in 1846 the opposition of the Democracy succeeded so far as to level the tariff, and that the industry of the country did not immediately languish was due only to the Mexican war, the acquisition of California, the discovery of gold and the immigration westward; but the low customs rates had their effect presently; cheap foreign goods flooded the country; over-production by our manufacturers resulted, and the collapse came with the financial crash of 1857. The protection policy then took deeper root and grew, but the Democratic party has never ceased to contend for free trade, nor to inveigh against a high tariff, and for ten years past it has, in and out of Congress, clamored for a reduction to the level of a rate for revenue only, regardless of the effect upon our mechanical and productive industries. During the last Presidential campaign it cultivated the free trade sentiment in the South, beguiling the protectionists of the North by ambiguous words and vague phrases.

How now do we find this free trade party legislating? It no sooner gains the control of Government than it begins a conquest looking to renewed cultivation of the free trade spirit, and the opening of our gates to the cheap labor products of Europe, while, with amazing inconsistency, the result of ignorance or willfulness, it injects into our domestic economy the most radical and indefensible protective policy imaginable, as if in very lust of power it had gone mad, in recklessness to its own principles.

A Democratic Administration saddles upon the country the interstate commerce law, setting up prohibitory and ruinous protection by a tariff, not upon commerce, but upon the means of transportation and communication between the people of the common country. It is to all intents and purposes a tariff upon the right—now reduced by Democratic stupidity to a mere privilege—of citizens of different sections to move between the States, and to exchange their products and the results of their industry; and especially is this a grievous tariff upon those most remote points of production.

Underlying the whole scheme of our government is the principle that no import, duty, or embargo shall be laid upon the trade or commerce of the citizens of the several States with each other. Yet the Democratic party has done precisely this thing, and by such action has given the strongest invitation to absolute and unqualified State independence from the union of States. Whoever calmly examines the question from the political standpoint, cannot fail to see that this is precisely the teaching and legal outcome of the interstate commerce law, if continued down to its legitimate results.

A in Colorado sells his products to B in Pennsylvania, in exchange for the result of the industry of B; it is their also—right. Interdiction of the exchange makes them as distinctly foreign in their trade relations as if one of them resided and did business in Persia. In a technical sense the Democratic Administration has not levied a tariff upon the goods of A, but it has practically done so by putting a prohibitory charge upon the means of effecting the exchange, and that is transportation. In other words, the Democratic party has so legislated as to declare that to be so, which never was, nor ever can be true—that transportation is commerce; and, moreover, it has erected a statue against its being done cheaply. It has, in brief, denied the right to the citizens of different States to do business with each other at a small profit.

It has done this by declaring that the greater war—God's free highways for man, knowing no toll nor tariff, and paying no interest on investment—which have heretofore determined the minimum cost of transportation, shall no longer do so. This has been accomplished by statutory inhibition to carry between points touched by waterways, except the carrier transports for non-competitive places at the minimum rate created by competition between rail and waterway for competitive

purposes. Let us take one instance to illustrate this point, for the subject of necessity

can be but partially treated now: Kansas City and St. Louis are in one State. The former is a great stock gathering and distributing point. Beef and pork stock move by rail from Western Missouri to St. Louis at a low rate, else it would be butchered in Kansas City. This is due to water and rail competition between Kansas City and St. Louis. There is no statute interdicting this, for the movement is all within a State; nor is there any law obstructing it by denying the right to charge more than the through rate for intermediate points to which there is no competition, and the rates to which are the value of the service, the true and just charge for the labor and energy exerted. That is, the laws of commerce recognize the right of the carrier to sell his surplus capacity—which must, to greater or less extent, develop in all carrying business—to carry through, as low his competitor, without disturbing his right to collect the true value for carriage to way-stations where he has no competitor; but a principe as old as commerce itself. But directly opposite St. Louis is East St. Louis, in the State of Illinois. However great its packing facilities, however much it has invested in transportation to bring the western plains near to the point of the consumption of their products, it is forbidden by the operation of the interstate law to receive those products at the rate guaranteed St. Louis, the distinction between them being the width of the river that fixes the low rate. Why? Because a Democratic measure says: "Since you are in another State than that in which you buy, railroads shall not carry your goods except you pay them the sum of the way rates—that is, if the railroad companies accept from you the rate St. Louis pays for precisely the same service, they must not charge more or as much, for carriage to or from any point between Kansas City and St. Louis." This they cannot do without ruin, as it would make all their energy surplus, so to speak, and the profit-making service would be cut off.

Thus St. Louis is protected at the expense of East St. Louis, not by desire of the rail-carriers, nor of the producers, nor of the consumers, but by the dictation of Congress and the Democratic President who made its ill-judged act law. So the citizen of Illinois is debarred of his right as a citizen by a tariff barrier erected at his State line, which as effectually cuts him off from trading in Missouri as if that State were in Europe and prohibitory customs dues were laid upon imports from it. Consumers in Illinois are forbidden the use of its faith not one to which it is more devotedly attached than the doctrine of free trade.

A communication was received from Dr. M. O. F. A. C. (THIS MONDAY EVENING, at 7:30 p.m.) from Dr. T. C. Sharp, of San Francisco, to the effect that the fruit crop will be unprecedentedly large, which is now sanguine, I think. There will be a full average crop in quantity, and, if nothing unfavorable occurs, the quality will be above the average.

The game is not worth the candle. Any folks taken in by seers and soothsayers in this case deserve neither pity nor defense.

JEFF DAVIS has decided not to attend on the occasion of the unveiling of the Calhoun statue. It is well that he has arrived at this conclusion. He has so seldom opened his mouth since 1865 without committing a blunder, that it is best for him to keep off the rostrum.

STATE BOARD OF HEALTH.

Small-Pox Disappearing from the Lower Counties—Sewerage and Other Matters.

A regular quarterly meeting of the State Board of Health was held Saturday evening at the office of the Secretary in this city; pres., Doctors Orme (President), Crowder, Bueland, Cluness and Tyrrell (Secretary). Minutes were read and approved.

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